

## **REMARKS**

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

### **I. Amendments to the Claims**

Claims 2 and 11 have been amended to recite the subject matter of independent claim 1, claims 6 and 13 have been amended to recite the subject matter of independent claim 5, claim 15 has been amended to recite the subject matter of independent claim 9, and claim 17 has been amended to recite the subject matter of independent claim 17. In addition, claims 7 and 8 have been amended to remain consistent with amended claim 6.

Further, claims 1, 5, 9 and 10 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

### **II. Allowable Subject Matter**

Claims 2-4, 6-8 and 11-19 were identified by the Examiner as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their respective base claims. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

As mentioned above, claims 2, 6, 11, 13, 15 and 17, which were identified as reciting the allowable subject matter, have been amended to recite the subject matter of their respective base claims.

Accordingly, in view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter as discussed above, it is submitted that amended independent claims 2, 6, 11, 13, 15 and 17 and claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 19 that depend therefrom are allowable.

### **III. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection**

Claims 1, 5, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Krishnamurthy (U.S. 6,256,038), Bronskill (U.S. 6,201,549), and Moreton (U.S. 5,636,338). This rejection is believed clearly inapplicable to amended independent claims 2, 6, 11, 13, 15, which recite subject matter identified as being allowable. Therefore, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

### **IV. Conclusion**

In view of the above remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance and an early notification thereof is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Maşami MIURA et al.

/Andrew L. Dunlap/

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Andrew L. Dunlap  
Registration No. 60,554  
Attorney for Applicants

ALD/led  
Washington, D.C. 20005-1503  
Telephone (202) 721-8200  
Facsimile (202) 721-8250  
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